THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has informed that they have not received any information regarding spending huge sums of money annually for establishing and maintaining a relationship with Doctors to increase the sale of their drugs.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

Excess charging by pharma companies

†1975. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drug manufacturing companies in the country are selling their products to the consumers on increased price in comparison to fixed price;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the names of these drug manufacturing companies; and

(d) the increased amount charged by every company till September, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The price of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Prices charged over and above the notified prices are recoverable from the companies concerned under para 13 of the DPCO, 1995. The number of such companies keeps changing based on cases of overcharging detected by NPPA.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. Prices of these drugs are regularly monitored and corrective measures taken where public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Category of medicines

†1976. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines being sold in the country have been divided into two categories as first being public price control and second non-Government price control;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the price of medicines of non-Governmental price-control has been increased almost 10 per cent every year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.